



Weekly Weather Crop Report



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone: 601-965-4575
Facsimile: 601-965-5622
www.nass.usda.gov/ms/
nass-ms@nass.usda.gov

Week ending April 1, 2007

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, April 1, 2007**. While brief rain showers over the weekend provided some relief for producers throughout Mississippi, a good deal more is needed to compensate for moisture deficits incurred up to this point. Fortunately, this small reprieve will allow many to continue planting activities that had been delayed due to dry soil conditions. Several areas already report a marked improvement in crops and pastures from the slight increase in precipitation. Soil moisture was rated 40 percent very short, 35 percent short, and 25 percent adequate.

Crop progress for week ending 04/01/07

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, planted	88	76	56	44
Corn, emerged	64	36	24	14
Rice, planted	4	0	--	1
Sorghum, planted	2	0	1	2
Soybeans, planted	17	8	11	7
Soybeans, emerged	5	0	--	0
Watermelons, planted	38	23	29	24
Winter Wheat, jointing	75	55	73	64
Winter Wheat, heading	20	5	6	3

Crop condition for week ending 04/01/07

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Blueberries	0	1	15	41	43
Corn	0	8	22	61	9
Livestock	4	14	33	40	9
Pasture	2	19	40	25	14
Winter Wheat	0	6	31	50	13

Comments

“Moisture is everything. We are awaiting moisture before we can plant anything else. If we get the rain forecast for the weekend, we will start planting beans next week and maybe some cotton.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“The drought continues from last summer. Currently the northeast section of Mississippi is 3.75 inches below normal rainfall received. Spring pastures are growing very slow due to dry conditions. Fertilizer prices are too high to make general applications on pastures transitioning from spring to summer growth.”

— Mike Howell, Lee

“A much needed 1.5" to 2" rain was received this weekend. Pastures already look better. Hopefully producers will be able to put up some ryegrass hay. I believe producers will put up as much hay as possible due to last year’s shortage.”

— Shelby Bearden, Copiah

“Corn planting is almost complete. The soybean farmers are putting their crop in the ground now. We have gone several weeks, in many areas, without any rain. Those areas are in bad need of some moisture. The corn that is up looks pretty good, as do the soybeans that have germinated. They do need some rain. Rain is predicted for Saturday, March 31st – we will see what happens.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Our area received some heavy rain Sunday afternoon. Now that we have some moisture, fieldwork can continue for crop planting. Ryegrass is really jumping and summer grasses are coming out of dormancy. If we can keep some moisture, we should be in good shape for grazing this spring. The blueberry crop looks real promising.”

— Chuck Grantham, Forrest

“While some parts of Coahoma County received rain, most growers are still in need of some moisture. Insects are light in wheat fields. A few acres of soybeans have been planted.”

— Don Respass, Coahoma

“There is a drought in March! Quitman County has not had a good rain in four weeks.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“It has been very dry. Every crop growing, planted, or to be planted needs a good, general rain. Center pivots are watering wheat and corn in some areas.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Some corn has been planted. We are dry in most areas of the county.”
— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Most winter wheat is heading. Insect and disease pressure is light. Corn planted in soil with adequate moisture is emerging. Some cutworm activity has been observed.”
— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Planting has halted because of dry conditions. We need rain to continue planting.”
— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Less than 1 inch of rain fell over this past weekend. Many producers with center pivots began applying water in the last week of March.”
— Robert Martin, Issaquena

“Dry weather is beginning to curl leaves in wheat fields on compacted areas. Rainfall will be essential for soybean and grain sorghum planting, as well as, cotton planting. Wheat is heading in a rather rapid fashion; hopefully, yields will be good.”
— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Weekend rain has salvaged what would soon have been a serious drought situation. Most of the area has received around 1 to 1.5 inch of rain over a several hour period. The slow rain was very good; however, this amount will not correct the 5 to 6 inch deficit that exists for the season to date. Producers who had stopped planting due to dry soil should be able to resume planting within a day or two.”
— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Corn is emerging well. Slow rain over the weekend helped, but more moisture is needed. Insect populations are higher than normal and scouting will be critical in 2007.”
— Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Much needed rain over the weekend not only helped to clear up some of the pollen, but also added some of the moisture needed by pastures in order to thrive. More rain is predicted later in the week and is definitely needed.”
— Ruby D. Rankin, Kemper

“Approximately one-third to one-half inch rain fell Saturday and Sunday, leaving a continuing rainfall deficit of about 8 inches. Pasture weeds are coming on strong. Row crop producers are waiting on adequate moisture to start planting.”
— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Rains over the weekend really helped some thirsty pastures and corn fields.”
— Richard Hay, Amite

“Soil is very dry and forges are in need of some rain.”
— Thomas E. Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Most of the county received rain Saturday night and Sunday morning. Crops are already responding, as corn and pastures are greening up and growing already. We still need more rain, but the inch or so we received will help get our crops off to a good start.”
— Victor Lee, Simpson

“We got a real good rain Sunday, April 1st; we expect crop conditions to improve rapidly.”
— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Corn and watermelon crops have been planted, but the lack of rainfall has resulted in sporadic seed germination. Soil moisture conditions are deteriorating fast with low humidities and higher than normal temperatures.”
— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“We got several inches of rain on Sunday evening. This rain was needed and welcome. The remaining planted corn and watermelons should germinate and emerge. Additional corn and watermelons will be planted when fields are ready for traffic. Blueberries have progressed to stage 6. Ryegrass should respond very well to the rainfall we received.”
— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

(Additional comments appear at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>)
This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

Mississippi Weather Summary for Week Ending 04/01/07													
Division/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Plan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
Upper Delta													
Cleveland	86	55	71	57	14	0.10	-1.16	2	0.45				
Lambert	89	57	73			0.39	-0.83	2	0.55				
Tunica	86	55	71	57	14	1.79	0.46	1	1.95				
Extreme/Average	89	55	73	58	15	0.76	-0.82	2	0.98				
North-Central													
Calhoun City	85	54	70	57	13	0.48	-0.85	2	0.48				
Hickory Flat	86	50	69	55	14	0.00	-1.37	0	0.00				
Independence	83	55	70	55	15	0.59	-0.60	2	0.77				
Oxford	86	57	71	55	16	0.67	-0.64	2	0.73				
Extreme/Average	86	50	70	57	13	0.58	-0.86	2	0.49				
Northeast													
Booneville	83	56	69	55	14	0.07	-1.30	2	0.07				
Iuka	85	51	69	53	16	0.02	-1.40	2	0.02				
Ripley	85	55	69	55	14	0.00	-1.37	0	0.00				
Tupelo						0.00	0.00	0	0.00				
Verona	86	53	70	57	13	0.92	-0.41	3	0.97				
Extreme/Average	86	51	70	56	14	0.20	-1.12	3	0.21				
Lower Delta													
Moorhead	85	59	71	59	12	0.25	-1.13	2	0.35				
Rolling Fork	89	50	73	59	14	0.63	-0.77	1	0.69				
Stoneville	87	56	72	59	13	0.21	-1.11	2	0.49				
Yazoo City	84	57	70	60	10	0.80	-0.74	1	0.80				
Extreme/Average	89	50	73	60	13	0.47	-0.94	1	0.58				
Central													
Canton	84	53	69	60	9	1.01	-0.39	2	1.05				
Carthage	83	49	68	59	9	1.48	0.08	1	2.08				
Eupora	85	51	68	57	11	0.27	-1.22	1	0.49				
Lexington	85	53	69	58	11	0.40	-1.00	1	0.40				
Extreme/Average	85	49	69	59	10	0.79	-0.63	1	1.00				
East-Central													
Aberdeen	87	54	71	57	14	0.12	-1.26	2	0.14				
Houston	85	50	68	56	12	0.60	-0.83	2	0.69				
Philadelphia				59		0.75	-0.65	1	0.75				
State University	86	55	70	58	12	0.29	-1.11	2	0.43				
Extreme/Average	87	50	70	59	11	0.44	-0.96	2	0.50				
Southwest													
Crystal Springs	84	56	71	61	10	0.98	-0.42	2	1.23				
Natchez	85	53	70	62	8	0.50	-1.04	1	0.83				
Oakley				60		0.01	-1.50	1	0.04				
Vicksburg	84	53	71			1.20	0.00	1	1.21				
Extreme/Average	85	53	71	61	9	0.67	-0.98	2	0.83				
South-Central													
Collins	82	54	70	60	10	1.00	-0.44	1	1.30				
Columbia	85	56	72	62	10	0.15	-1.32	1	0.94				
Tylertown				62		0.00	-1.40	0	0.83				
Extreme/Average	85	54	70	61	9	0.38	-1.05	1	1.02				
Southeast													
Beaumont						0.00	0.00	0	0.00				
Hattiesburg				62		0.00	-1.42	0	0.50				
Laurel	89	53	71	60	11	0.30	-1.07	1	0.66				
Newton	86	46	67	58	9	0.28	-1.20	1	0.42				
Extreme/Average	89	46	71	60	10	0.19	-1.23	1	0.52				
Coastal													
Gulfport	77	59	70	64	6	3.00	1.72	1	4.20				
Picayune	85	54	71	62	9	0.00	-1.40	0	0.80				
Extreme/Average	85	54	71	63	7	1.50	0.16	0	2.50				
State	89	46	70	59	11	0.64	-0.77	2	0.85				

DFN = Departure from Normal.